

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Submitted herewith is one replacement sheet for Fig. 1.

REMARKS

Applicant has amended claim 1, added new claim 16, canceled claim 6 without prejudice and amended Fig. 1. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments to the claims and drawings are supported by the application as originally filed and do not contain any new matter. Accordingly, the Office Action will be discussed in terms of the drawings and claims as amended.

The Examiner has objected to claim 6. Since the contents of claim 6 has been added to amended claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is not now objectionable.

The Examiner has objected to Fig. 1, stating that it needs to be designated as prior art. By the one replacement sheet for Fig. 1, Applicant has designated Fig. 1 as prior art and respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5 and 10-12 under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by King et al., stating that King et al. discloses all of the present invention and particularly discloses an optical information-recording medium comprising an information-recording layer, a polarization-changing layer and a reflection layer.

Applicant has carefully reviewed King et al. and respectfully submits that while King et al. may disclose a polarization-changing layer, Applicant respectfully submits that it does not disclose that the polarization-changing layer would include a phase difference generating layer having molecules arranged along a circle on the base plate.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that King et al. does not disclose each and every element of Applicant's invention as claimed. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-5 and 10-12 and 16 are not anticipated in King et al.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 6 and 13-15 under 35 USC 103 as being obvious over King et al. in view of Yamaoka, stating that King et al. discloses all of the present invention except for the molecules arranged in a circle in the phase difference generating layer of the polarization-changing layer; Yamaoka discloses a method of forming a polarization-changing layer that includes a phase difference generating layer wherein the molecules in said phase difference generating layer are arranged along a circle on a substrate; and it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify King et al. in view of the teachings of Yamaoka.

In reply thereto, Applicant would like to incorporate by reference his comments above concerning Applicant's invention and King et al. In addition, Applicant has carefully reviewed

Yamaoka and respectfully submits that in Yamaoka a polyvinyl alcohol is the polarization-changing layer and since the polarization-changing layer is spin-coated, the Examiner assumes that the molecules in the polarization-changing layer are arranged along a circle. However, Applicant respectfully submits that in Yamaoka, the polyvinyl alcohol is an oriented film and after being formed by spin-coating, the surface is rubbed with the rayon cloth at an azimuth angle of 17.5 degrees with respect to the axis of polarization. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that as a result the molecules are not arranged along a circle as suggested by the Examiner and are provided linearly.

Still further, Applicant respectfully submits that in Yamaoka a nematic liquid-crystal polymer is oriented along the orientation direction of the oriented film to form a $1/2$ wavelength plate. Accordingly, the molecules in Yamaoka in the phase difference generating layer are arranged on a straight line which is 17.5 degrees with respect to the axis of polarization and are not arranged along a circle. Also, Applicant would like to point out that Yamaoka is a laminated liquid-crystal display apparatus which is not spun and therefore the phase difference generating layer is provided in a straight line. In contrast thereto, since the recording medium of Applicant's invention is spun, as is that of King et al., one of ordinary skill in the art would not utilize the teachings of Yamaoka which suggests straight line orientation to make a recording medium having circular orientation.

In view of the above, therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that not only is the combination suggested by the Examiner not Applicant's invention but also the combination suggested by the Examiner would not be suggested to one of ordinary skill in the art. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 13-16 would not be obvious over King et al. in view of Yamaoka.


Applicant further respectfully and retroactively requests a one-month extension of time so as to respond to the Office Action. Please charge Deposit Account No. 11-1445 in the sum of \$60 as the fee.

In view of the above, therefore, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered, favorably considered and the case passed to issue.

Please charge any additional costs incurred by or in order to implement this Amendment or required by any requests for extensions of time to KODA & ANDROLIA DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 11-1445.

Respectfully submitted,

KODA & ANDROLIA

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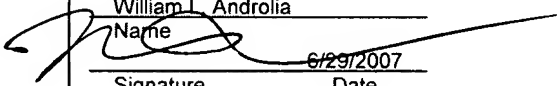
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

June 29, 2007

Date of Deposit

William L. Androlia

Name


Signature

6/29/2007

Date